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January 25, 2010

Mr. Paul E. Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm St
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Stacey

I am the Golf Course Superintendent at the Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury. I am also a member of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

I consider myself an environmentalist and a land conservationist. I have been in the "green industry" for almost thirty years. I have been practicing water conservation for my entire professional career and I agree there should be some form of Water Diversion Legislation and that the State of Connecticut should protect its rivers and streams, as well as associated watersheds. It is good that the state is beginning this process. It will prompt all users to think more wisely about how they will use water in the future.

At this time I cannot support the proposed changes. I feel there are still too many unanswered questions about the effects of the bill which (if passed in its present state) may have too many negative effects the state's municipalities and businesses, which would ultimately affect the quality of life for the state's residents. Other areas of concern are that the rivers and streams in the state would not have to be classified before the bill is passed and that no changes will be needed for the class four stream (rather than mandate improvement).

Please set an example and develop a proposal which can (as best as possible) address the needs of the environment and the people.

Sincerely,

Erick B. Holm, CGCS
Hop Meadow Country Club